

CAUSES (5)  
OF THE  
SCARCITY  
INVESTIGATED:



ALSO  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
MOST STRIKING  
*Variations in the Weather,*  
From OCTOBER, 1798, to SEPTEMBER, 1800.



TO WHICH IS PREFIX'D,  
*THE PRICE OF WHEAT,*  
EVERY YEAR,  
From 1600 to the present Æra.

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By *SAMUEL HOPKINSON*, B. D.

LATE FELLOW OF CLARE-HALL. *R*

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TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

*Earl Wentworth Fitzwilliam.*

---

*My Lord,*

*Having been an Eye-Witness of the Zeal  
you have invariably display'd for the dearest  
Interests of Mankind ever since you enter'd on  
the Theatre of the World, I am naturally in-  
duc'd to prefix your Name to this little Tract,  
being,*

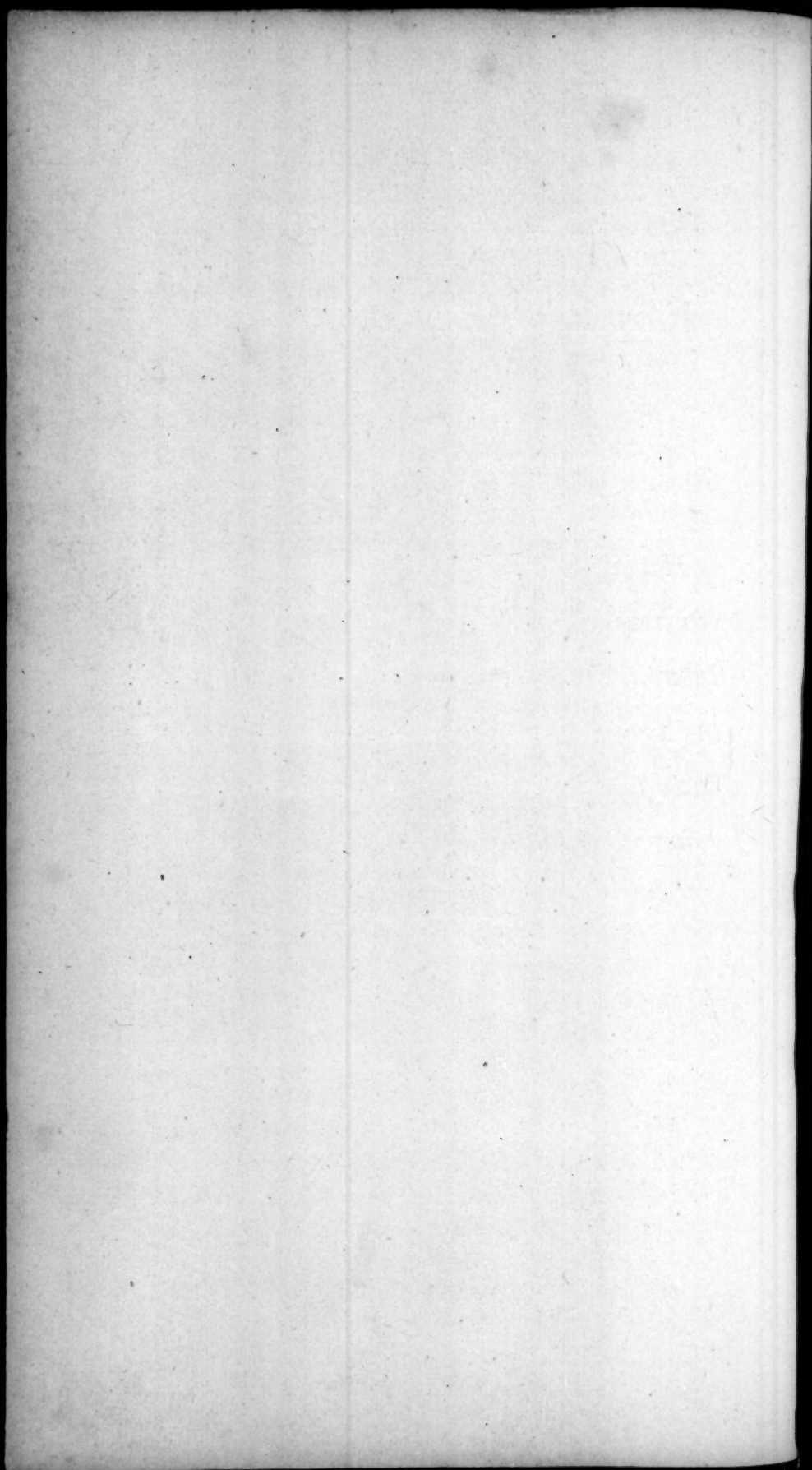
*My Lord,*

*With due Respect,*

*Your most obedient,*

*Samuel Hopkinson.*

*Moreton, 1 Dec. 1800.*

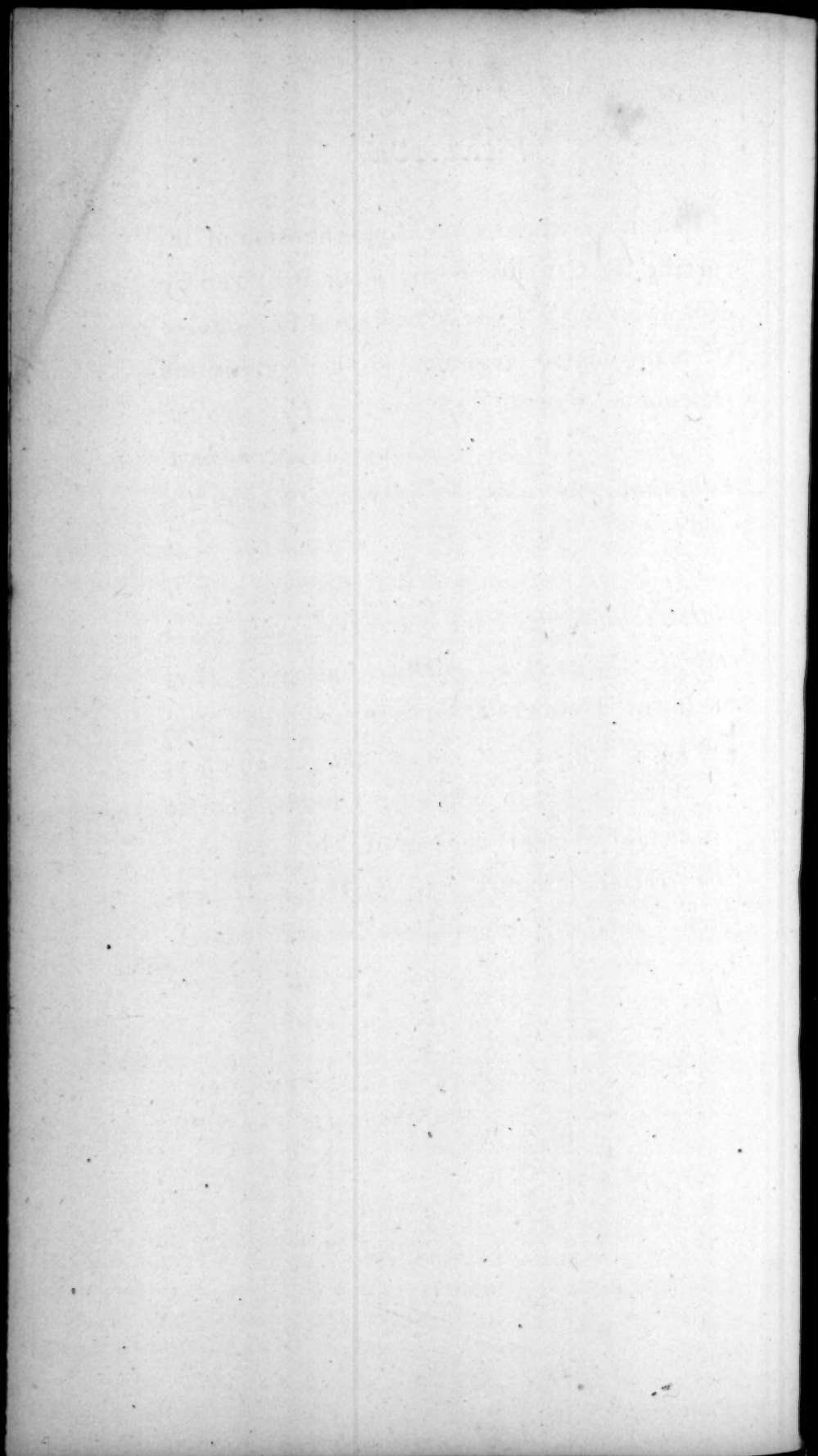




## PREFACE.

I am not without some Apprehension of incurring the Censure of my pious Brethren by dedicating much Time to temporal Persuits.— Of many cogent Arguments to be urg'd in my Defence it may be remark'd “ *He, who has been favor'd with the Benefits of an Academical Education, must have employ'd that valuable Period to very little Purpose, if, at the Close of 46 Years, he is, still, so poor a Proficient as not to spare a considerable Part of every returning Week from the Duties of his spiritual Calling.*” How the leisure Hours of Divines in convivial Cities and rural Towns are, commonly, taken up, it is not necessary to inform the Public, nor to the candid Reader need more be said than “ *whether I am turning over the Pages of Revelation : whether I am tilling the Ground : whether I am pervading the pathless Wood, I, every where and always, feel the Impressions of*

THE POOR INDIAN! WHOSE UNTUTOR'D MIND  
SEES GOD IN CLOUDS AND HEARS HIM IN THE WIND.”



*The average Price of Wheat in each Year,  
from 1600 to 1800.*

Years.	Wheat per Qr.			Years.	Wheat per Qr.			Years.	Wheat per Qr.		
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1600	1	17	8	1632	2	13	4	1664	2	0	6
1601	1	14	10	1633	2	18	0	1665	2	9	4
1602	1	9	4	1634	2	16	0	1666	1	16	0
1603	1	15	4	1635	2	16	0	1667	1	16	0
1604	1	10	8	1636	2	16	8	1668	2	0	0
1605	1	15	10	1637	2	13	0	1669	2	4	4
1606	1	13	0	1638	2	17	4	1670	2	1	8
1607	1	16	8	1639	2	4	10	1671	2	2	0
1608	2	16	8	1640	2	4	8	1672	2	1	0
1609	2	10	0	1641	2	8	0	1673	2	6	8
1610	1	15	10	1642	probably not kept on Account of the in- testine Broils.			1674	3	8	8
1611	1	18	8	1643				1675	3	4	8
1612	2	2	4	1644				1676	1	18	0
1613	2	8	8	1645				1677	2	2	0
1614	2	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1646	2	8	0	1678	2	19	0
1615	1	18	8	1647	3	13	8	1679	3	0	0
1616	2	0	4	1648	4	5	0	1680	2	5	0
1617	2	8	8	1649	4	0	0	1681	2	6	8
1618	2	6	8	1650	3	16	8	1682	2	4	0
1619	1	15	4	1651	3	13	4	1683	2	0	0
1620	1	10	4	1652	2	9	6	1684	2	4	0
1621	1	10	4	1653	1	15	6	1685	2	6	8
1622	2	18	8	1654	1	6	0	1686	1	14	0
1623	2	12	0	1655	1	13	4	1687	1	5	2
1624	2	8	0	1656	2	3	0	1688	2	6	0
1625	2	12	0	1657	2	6	8	1689	1	10	0
1626	2	9	4	1658	3	5	0	1690	1	14	8
1627	1	16	0	1659	3	6	0	1691	1	14	0
1628	1	8	0	1660	2	16	6	1692	2	6	8
1629	2	2	0	1661	3	10	0	1693	3	7	8
1630	2	15	8	1662	3	14	0	1694	3	4	0
1631	3	8	0	1663	2	17	0	1695	2	13	0

Years.	Wheat per Qr.			Years.	Wheat per Qr.			Years.	Wheat per Qr.		
	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
1696	3	11	0	1731	1	12	10	1766	2	3	1
1697	3	0	0	1732	1	6	8	1767	3	4	6
1698	3	8	4	1733	1	8	4	1768	3	0	6
1699	3	4	0	1734	1	18	10	1769	2	5	8
1700	2	0	0	1735	2	3	0	1770	2	9	0
1701	1	17	8	1736	2	0	4	1771	2	7	2
1702	1	9	6	1737	1	18	0	1772	2	10	8
1703	1	16	0	1738	1	15	6	1773	2	11	0
1704	2	6	6	1739	1	18	6	1774	2	12	8
1705	1	10	0	1740	2	10	8	1775	2	8	4
1706	1	6	0	1741	2	6	8	1776	1	18	2
1707	1	8	6	1742	1	14	0	1777	2	5	6
1708	2	1	6	1743	1	4	10	1778	2	2	0
1709	3	18	6	1744	1	4	10	1779	1	13	8
1710	3	18	0	1745	1	7	6	1780	1	15	8
1711	2	14	0	1746	1	19	0	1781	2	4	8
1712	2	6	4	1747	1	14	10	1782	2	7	10
1713	2	11	0	1748	1	17	0	1783	2	12	8
1714	2	10	4	1749	1	17	0	1784	2	8	10
1715	2	3	0	1750	1	12	6	1785	2	1	10
1716	2	8	0	1751	1	18	6	1786	1	18	10
1717	2	5	8	1752	2	1	10	1787	2	1	2
1718	1	18	10	1753	2	4	8	1788	2	5	0
1719	1	15	0	1754	1	14	8	1789	2	11	2
1720	1	17	0	1755	1	13	10	1790	2	13	2
1721	1	17	6	1756	2	5	3	1791	1	19	6
1722	1	16	0	1757	3	0	0	1792	2	3	2
1723	1	14	8	1758	2	10	0	1793	2	6	0
1724	1	17	0	1759	1	19	10	1794	2	10	0
1725	2	8	6	1760	1	16	6	1795	3	15	5
1726	2	6	0	1761	1	10	3	1796	3	17	0
1727	2	2	0	1762	1	19	0	1797	2	14	10
1728	2	14	6	1763	2	0	9	1798	2	4	0
1729	2	6	10	1764	2	6	9	1799	4	10	0
1730	1	16	6					1800	6	10	0

*Quae vigilanda viris? vel cum ruit imbriferum ver,  
Spicea jam campis cum messis inhorruit, et cum  
Frumenta in viridi stipula lactentia turgent?*

GEOR. I, 315.

Accustom'd to read the general Report of Agriculture and the Productions of remote Counties, it will not, I trust, be unacceptable to many of my Readers to hear some Account of their own.

It would be unfair, if not impossible, to estimate the State of a Kingdom, or even of an individual Province by the Product of a single Parish: I shall endeavor, therefore, to make a correct State of that Department, thro' which I habitually pass, extending from Peterborough on the North, to the South of Lincoln Heath, bounded on the West by the more elevated Grounds of Northamptonshire, in a Line of 8 Miles, to the Banks of the Welland: on the other Side of that River by the alternate Plains and Woodlands of Lincolnshire, in a Stretch of 30 more, and terminated by an imaginary Line 4 Miles to the East, and, parallel with the

B

In



Caer-Dyke \*, of tolerably well-cultivated Lands, and, generally speaking, of Qualities not very dissimilar.

In discussing a Subject of such Importance, it is necessary not merely to state the Productions of the present, but, to ascertain those of the two former Years. Having done this, I will prove to a positive certainty that one, amongst other existing Causes of the Scarcity so much complain'd of, is the extraordinary Ungeniality of the Seasons.

Desirous to obtrude as little as possible upon the public Attention, from the Repository of my own Memory alone, I shall refer to known Facts and stated Periods, which the considerate Part of Mankind will easily recollect, while the dissolute and inattentive behold the extraordinary Variations in the Seasons, the Destruction or Rise of mighty Empires, with an equal Degree of Indifference. Whoever will do me the Honor to inspect the following Account, is requested to consider it unlimited to any particular Town or Place, but, to apply it generally to that District for which it is intended.

*Average*

\* A Work of Roman Industry and Wisdom, intended to intersect, at right Angles, all the Highland Brooks, and to convey their Waters, directly, to the Ocean.



*Average Price of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1798.*

		£.	s.	d.
Wheat	} per Quarter	2	4	0
Barley		1	5	0
Beans		1	1	0
Oats		0	16	0
White Pease		2	2	0
Potatoes		0	7	0
Hay, per Hun.	- - - - -	0	4	6
Turnips, per Acre	- - - - -	2	10	0
Apples, per Strike	- - - - -	0	2	6
Acorns	} a redundant Crop			
Nuts				
Hips				
Hawes				
Beef, per Stone	- - - - -	0	5	0
Mutton, per Pound	- - - - -	0	0	5
Pork	- - - - -	0	0	5
Veal	- - - - -	0	0	6

*Average Produce of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1798.*

		Q.	B.	P.
Wheat	} Quarters per Acre	2	2	0
Barley		3	4	0
Beans		3	0	0
Oats		3	4	0
White Pease		3	4	0
Potatoes		75	0	0
Hay	} as above			
Turnips				
Apples				

1798.

The Time for committing the Wheat to the Ground, communibus Annis, seldom commences, in this Country, much before Nov. but, the well-matur'd Harvest of this Year being hous'd early in Sep. and the Fallows being well-prepar'd during the Dryness of the preceding Summer, this indispensable Part of Agriculture was finish'd about a Month sooner than usual. The Seed went in well, got, what is commonly call'd, a good Setting, and was up, in many Places, before the rainy Season began, which was about Oct. 20.

Here I have to request the Indulgence of the Reader in remarking that, having for 18 Years together paid considerable Attention to the Weather, that, during one entire Twelve-month having kept a Diary without the Omission of a single Day, that, during the Severity of 1794 having placed a Thermometer on one of the greatest Heights of Peterboro' Minster, facing the Frozen North, whither I repaired at the Dawn of Day, assisted by a Light, to note it's Variations, and, that, now inhabiting a House commanding a View to the South and West, towards which I turn an early Eye almost every Morning in the Year: with these Advantages, some little Deference, I trust, may be  
paid

paid to what I have to advance on so favorite, and so interesting a Subject.

It would be both tedious and uninteresting to detail all the minute Variations in the Weather: I shall notice, therefore, only such striking Periods, which, even a common Observer must have remark'd, and which, I conceive, have had a baneful Influence, if aggregately taken, on the Produce of the coming Year.

Previous to Dec. there was Plenty of Rain, accompanied by alternate and moderate Frost, which set in steadily on the 6th, and continued with unremitting Severity about 10 Days. During the open Interval of 8 more, we had abundance of Downfall, consisting of Rain and melting Snow. On the 24th the Wind blew strong from the North, charged with dark, cutting, artic Cold. On the 27th, tho' bright and still, it increased to a degree, which, no one, whose Avocations called him out, surely can ever forget, a Day of all others much to be remember'd: such, perhaps, as was never experienced by the oldest Person existing in this Part of England and so near the Sea-Coast. It's Effects were so powerful, that, in several Instances I could mention, not even the united Efforts of Youth and Strength could repel them.

Being, by Turns, at Home and abroad, stirring thro' the whole Day, I speak with positive Correctness of what I observ'd and felt. Men engag'd in active and dry Employments, within and without Doors, tho' aware of the impending Danger, and exerted every Effort to repel it, had, notwithstanding, their Hands and Feet froze, in the Middle of the Day. Towards the Close it's Rigor became excessive. In the Field Lives were lost. The Cold pervaded the utmost Recesses and hover'd round the very Borders of the Hearth. Few, perhaps, in this Neighborhood, can speak of this with greater Accuracy than myself. However extraordinary, then, the following may appear, I aver it a mathematical Fact. Soon after it was dark, I put on additional Cloathing under which I had never been shelter'd in the House, and, paid strict Attention to two Thermometers. At 7, one, within 4 Feet of the Chimney where I and my Family were sitting by a good Fire, was at Freezing. Another, which I had not long before suspended on the Outside of the same Room, on a western Wall, a Situation, certainly, not so cold as other external Places, as well on Account of the Fire within, as of the Sun, which had been shining, on the Spot, some Hours of the preceding Day, soon dropt down to 2 Degrees below 0. As Extremes, in Nature, seldom last long, so this excessive Severity



rity abated somewhat in 2 Hours; but, the Rigor of the Night was visible in the Features of the early Morn. It resembl'd rather a Scene of the Glaciere Alpes, in the Days of Hannibal \*, than a cultivated Country in so low a Lattitude. “*Omnia torrida et rigentia Gelu.*†” All Kinds of domestic Animals, and subjugated Cattle, retreated to Shelters open for their Reception. Several Species of wild Birds left their wonted Abodes, and approach'd the Dwellings of Man, while others of the small and inoffensive Sort perish'd before the Approach of Day: but, Nothing surpriz'd me more than the shivering Figure of my own Species during the 2 first Hours after Day Light. It reminded me of the Delineations of the Eskimaux, and, Kamschatkadale Indian, whom Nature in those dreary Wastes† wisely impells to bury the Neck within the Shoulders to encourage Circulation, and, to preserve Life. The Ground was cover'd with Snow, and every Pool was seal'd up till the 20th January

\* Why in the Days of Hannibal? See Gibbon's Survey of the Roman Empire. Compare the Severity of Canada with the Mildness of modern France, and of other Countries in the same Parallels, over whose Rivers, now seldom frozen, the-then-Conquerors of the World us'd to transport whole Armies, bag and baggage, with living Elephants, on Ice.

† HOR. Ode 22, Lib. 1, 17.

‡ LIVY, Lib. 21.

1799.

'Till the 8th Feb. We had cold Rains and melting Snow, when a Blast more furious and cutting than any of several preceding Years, set in, and continu'd with various Intermissions thro'out March. After a Winter, unexampl'd in the Experience of the oldest Inhabitant of this Department, we naturally expected a genial Spring, which, very few Seeds being yet committed to the Earth, in this Part of the Country, was the more anxiously look'd for ; but, our Hopes were disappointed. Instead of mild and lucid Intervals, which frequently commence in this Month, we had Snow and Rain, Wind and Storm, till near the Middle of May. Nor were the Prognostics, whereby we are often enabl'd to foretell any considerable Alteration in the Weather, of any Avail.

The most frequent as well as the heaviest Rains generally come from the South. At this Time, contrary to all Order, as tho' the Elements were dismiss'd from Law, it began in the East, it veer'd raining thro' the South, it burst from the West, it delug'd from the North, and, pass'd in Torrents and Tornados, thro' every Point of the Compass.

Thus,



Thus, I have been more particular in describing the Severity of the above unexampl'd Period, conceiving that from thence we may, in a great Degree, fairly date the Æra of our present Scarcity. From the Middle of April to the 12th May, more Seeds usually are, and this Year especially, would have been sown than in any other given Period. This Process thro'out Kesteven was generally stopp'd. In the few Instances where the laudable Anxiety of the Husbandman induc'd him to proceed, it fail'd: the Cause must be very clear to every one whose Habits and Inclinations tend to such Persuits. The arable Land, particularly in this Quarter, is of a very tenacious Quality. Such as had been winter plough'd, having been alternately pulveriz'd with frequent Frost, and drench'd with Rain, resembl'd, at the Time of sowing\*, more the glutinous State of Mortar prepar'd for Building than a fine Mould ready for the Reception of the Seed. This State of the Weather and Condition of the Land were succeeded by other Extremes, equally adverse to Vevetation. Dry and harsh Winds, aided by lengthening Days and warmer Suns, had, at this Season, an effect exactly similar to Frost in the severest Season. They  
set

\* Of Earth reduced to this State Thrashing Floors were made by the Ancients, and, are still, sometimes, by the Moderns.—See the Method and Quality of such in the following beautiful Description:

VIR. Geor. I, 179.

set (as is aptly call'd in this Country) the wettest Parts of the Surface in such a Manner as to render it very ungenial, and, in many Places utterly unfit for the immediate Reception of the Seed. The Time for sowing Beans, Barley, and Oats, being deferr'd, at least, one Month later than usual, and little Rain falling on the new-sown Corn from about the Middle of May to the 10th July, it came to pass that not more than one Half of the Barley germinated at first, nor did the Remainder appear till the former was nearly ripe, and, therefore, too late for Maturity: while much, of each Sort, were either totally destroy'd or materially check'd by a small green Maggot, which seem'd generated on the upper Part of the Ear, before it expanded from the Blade. The Wheat, as before remark'd, being sown early in the preceding Autumn, and, on that Account stood the longest and severest Winter, never made a finer Appearance both as to Quality and Color than at the Beginning of July. I am supported in the Truth of this Remark by what has been generally adopted in very early-sowing in some of the Northern Counties; but more especially by what is positively asserted by one of the most polish'd Writers of Antiquity, whose Maxims were not intended to apply to the fertile Plains of imperial Italy alone, which had suffer'd under the Ravages of a civil War\*, but

to

\* VIRG. Ecl. 9, 4

to extend universally over all the Northern Provinces of a mighty Empire\*. On the 10th of July the Wet-Weather recommenc'd in earnest. The Wheat, beat down and mildew'd, receiv'd additional Injury, even after it was cut, by being expos'd a full Month before it was carried. The Beans and Pease, which before the Rain had not made much Progress, in the Course of a few Weeks ran up in too luxuriant a Manner, and produc'd little but Straw\*. Even that either rotted upon the Ground or was much injur'd by the cold and incessant Rains.

The Harvest, which in the preceding Year was got well in Aug. was, in this sickly and unproductive Season, unfinished in Dec.

Under these Circumstances, therefore, can any considerate Person wonder at so striking an Alteration in all the useful Articles of Life, in the Course of only one single Year? Or can he withhold his Assent to the Truth of what I conceive is plainly established, that the Dearness of Provisions in 1799 was occasioned, in a great Degree, by the extraordinary Ungeniality of the Season, which will appear still more evident by confining our Attention to another Period. This, tho' different in some Respects, will be found equally, if not more, unfavorable to Vegetation than the former.

\* VIR. Geor. I, 47.

† Geor. I, 191.

*Average Price of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1799.*

		£.	s.	d.
Wheat	} per Quarter - - -	4	10	0
Barley		2	5	0
Beans { a very mean article		2	0	0
Oats		1	8	0
White Pease		7	0	0
Potatoes		0	19	0
Hay, per Hun.	- - - - -	0	6	0
Turnips, per Acre	- - - - -	4	4	0
Apples, per Strike	- - - - -	0	3	6
Acorns	} rather more than average			
Nuts				
Hips				
Hawes				
Beef, per Stone	- - - - -	0	6	0
Mutton	} per Pound - - -	0	6	0
Veal		0	0	5½
Pork		0	0	6

*Average Produce of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1799.*

		Q.	B.	P.
Wheat	} fit for human Consumption } not more than	1	6	0
Barley		2	0	0
Beans	} Quarters per Acre - -	0	4	0
Oats		2	4	0
White Pease		2	4	0
Potatoes		60	0	0
Hay, a poor Crop, poorly gotten				
Turnips	} a poor crop			
Apples				

The Season for sowing Wheat in 1799, was, in every Respect directly opposite to the preceding Year of 1798. The former was early: the Seed was good: the Land was dry:—The latter was very late: the Seed very bad: the Land very wet. On the strictest Enquiry, thro'out Kesteven, I am induced to believe a fourth Part of the Land was left unsown, and even of that, which was, a considerable Part of the Seed perish'd by the heavy Rains, severe Frost, and alternate Snows, which prevail'd, with short Intermissions from Oct. to April. As the old Hay, in most Villages, had been chiefly consum'd at the End of the preceding Spring, it was found necessary to begin sooner than usual upon the new. If we consider the indifferent Quality of this Article, the prodigious Quantity of Barley, Beans and Oats in some Parishes left uncut and entirely lost in the Water, and, by far the greater Part damag'd every where: if we weigh all Circumstances in the aggregate, our Astonishment must cease at the advancing Price of those Articles which the peculiar Untowardness of the Seasons left fit for Consumption. Many a poor Man, impress'd with the Severity of the past, and, dreading the Effect of another similar Winter, sold his Cow or his Hog sooner than be at the Expence of buying Food for their Support.—And hence also an useful and numerous Part  
of



of the Community, Laborers, Shepherds, and even some of the inferior Farmers, were discourag'd from breeding Poultry, Hogs, Sheep, and even the larger Kind of Cattle. I do not, therefore, scruple to assert, on my own Knowledge that this very Circumstance contributed, in a very considerable Degree, towards the Scarcity of those very Articles, of which we, now, complain.



— The following Statement of the Weather in 1799, different, perhaps, from what may have prevail'd in other Parts of the Kingdom, will, I trust, be found tolerably correct for this County:

	<i>Rain, or Dry melting Days. Snow.</i>				
Jan.	—	20	—	11	
Feb.	—	8	—	20	
March	—	18	—	13	
April	—	10	—	20	
May	—	18	—	13	
June	—	25	—	5	
July	—	10	—	21	
Aug.	—	11	—	20	
Sep.	—	13	—	17	
Oct.	—	14	—	17	
Nov.	—	12	—	18	
Dec.	—	22	—	9	

Wind	{	71	}	Days in	{	South East
		114				South West
		19				North
		63				North West
		98				North East

Frost and Snow principally till the End of March.

Wet and cold Winds till May.

Cold and dry, for the most Part, till July.

Cheerless Summer.

Bad Autumn.

1800.

Little Progress was made in Agriculture, on Account of the unfavorable Spring, till the Month of April; the first 10 Days of which being fair and the Land working well, a greater Quantity of Barley was sown than usual in so short a Space of Time. Here, again, the Labors of the Husbandman receiv'd a severe and unexpected Injury from the Elements, which pour'd forth such excessive Torrents of Rain, as set and ran the Surface as bad as in any former Period. This was soon after parch'd and dried by the Wind and Sun in such a Manner that the Corn not being able to get thro', soon perish'd in the Ground. The Farmer in many Places was compell'd to re-sow: but another and still heavier Misfortune, and, as far as it extended, more terrible in it's Effects, visited and afflicted the vigilant and idle both alike. This was the Hail-Storm on Sunday 4th May. Surely no Day was ever like unto this, or ever will be, both in it's immediate and consequent Effects, such as I am confident will never be forgotten by the oldest Inhabitant of those Places which suffer'd by it's destructive Violence. This Tract will probably be read in distant Places far beyond the Limits of our own Province, I shall repeat, therefore, the Description of that dreadful Tempest published in the Stamford Mercury on the following Friday:

To

*To the Editor of the Stamford Mercury.*

SIR,

As various Rumors have gone abroad concerning the Storm, which terrified and afflicted this Neighborhood on Sunday last: as it may not be unacceptable to ascertain in what Manner, in what Degree, and at what hour of the Day it visited different Parts of the Kingdom, I embrace this public Opportunity of submitting the following Account, with the utmost Deference and Respect, to the Attention of your distant Readers.

*Intonuere Poli, et erebris micat Ignibus Æther,  
Præsentemque Viris intentant omnia Necem.*

The early Morning, considering the Season of the Year, was exceeding hot: the nearer Mid-day the more oppressive. The Air was calm: the Sky serene: all was still: Farenheit in a temperate Situation being at 65. Providence, however, whose Wisdom is visible in all his Ways, whose Mercy is over all his Works, and whose Chastisements tend to universal Good, amidst this Scene of apparent Tranquillity, held out several concurring Signals, which strongly indicated an approaching Change.

1. From 6 to 9, A. M. there was a sudden Augmentation of Heat, which in Spring and Summer is a certain Prognostic of much Downfal.

2. From 9 to 12, the Barometer fell considerably, though not to that Point at which we habitually expect an Abundance of Rain.

3. The Pavements became wet.

4. A leaden Bullet suspended by a white leathern Thong, in Length 36 Inches, though dry in the Morning, was, now, loaded with Moisture, and sunk three fourths of an Inch.

5. Cattle were observed to assemble in Groups, to retreat to Barns and Hedges, or to return Home.

6. Oxen bellowed extremely.

Though sensibly impressed with these concurring Signs, I was more particularly struck at the perturbed and increasing State of the Clouds : from 12 to 2, P. M. rugged Fragments were incessantly rising higher and larger than the preceding, assembling and uniting towards the Zenith, until, like the little one in the Days  
of

of Elijah, they almost covered the Face of the Sky. About this Time the southern Horizon, inclining rather towards the West, began to gather an uniform Blackness. The Thunder rolled, the Storm howled, the Air was chilled, the Wind rose, and, what I esteem a more certain Prognostic than any other, small Clouds formed like Fleeces, denser in the Middle, and white towards the Edges, mounted with great Celerity in Front, and preceded the vast black Tempest, which was fast increasing behind. My well-disposed Neighbors were already assembled in the Church, for the Purpose of paying their weekly Adorations to the Supreme Being. Alarmed at the approaching Darkness, and at the Sound of a mighty Wind, some ran into the Porch, Others into the Church-yard, to see the approaching Storm. While thus assembled, our Attention was suddenly arrested by a vast Column of Smoak, which seemed to arise from the Ground, about a southern Mile from the Place where we stood, just like the fancied Representations of Etna and Vesuvius. With several Others I immediately ascended the Steeple; but, here Description must for ever fall short; no Mind can comprehend, no Tongue can tell, no Pen can represent the Scene now exhibited to the astonish'd Sight. I was just in Time to have a better View of the



Phænomenon which alarmed us below, nor do I hesitate in believing it proceeded from the sudden Explosion of a large Fire-ball, as the Smoak was far more transparent, and ascended in a Manner very different from what terrestrial Matter is accustomed to emit. A sharp cold misty Rain now began to beat upon us, the Clouds vaulted one over another in confused Impetuosity, just as delineated by the masterly Hand in the tempestuous Skies of Salvator Rosa. The Edifice rocked, the Wind roared, the Thunder pealed, the Lightning went abroad, and Nature seemed struggling for her very Existence.

The Fury of the Storm now became excessive: the Sun withdrew his Shining, and a partial Darkness overspread the Land. We could neither stand without Support, see without Difficulty, or hear any Thing except the Elements in Disorder. We quickly descended for Safety into the Church. Here was a Scene the most awful and extraordinary I ever witnessed thro' the Course of my Life: such, as I supposed, it was not in the Power of the Elements, in the ordinary Course of natural Operations, in so high a Latitude at least, to have effected: such, perhaps, as had not been displayed from the Beginning of Time, even unto this Day.

Such



Such Windows as were not well secured fell down into the Nave of the Church. The Effects of the Hail, aided by a dreadful Wind, accompanied by Peals of Thunder and Flashes of Lightning, upon the south and western Windows, if I may be allowed to compare Things diverse with one another, I can liken to Nothing so aptly as to an infinite Number of Muskets pouring Balls incessantly upon the Church, for the Space of Half an Hour: for the Glass shivered and incorporated, as it were, with the Shower of monstrous Hail-stones, beat quite across and struck the Sides of the northern Aisle with considerable Force. The confused Noise occasioned by the rushing Wind, by the Glass and Hail, by the Shrieks of Women, the Cries of Children, together with the Dismay visible in the Faces of all, was much increased by a sudden hollow Explosion, not unlike a Gun discharged either in a Cavern, or with it's Calabre close to a Wall. This was soon discovered to be the Effect of Lightning, which struck and scorched the Leg of a young Man, who had retreated with many more under a Pillar of the western Entrance, for Safety. As soon as the Tempest abated, the Inhabitants, whose Continuance in the Church was both uncomfortable and dangerous, eagerly returned to their respective Houses, the Windows whereof

whereof towards the South and South-west, were almost entirely demolished. The Cottage of the poor Man, as well as the Mansions of the Rich, suffered in the general Wreck. None hath escaped God's avenging Arm. Of 121 Panes in 8 sash Windows in the western Front of the Vicarage House, only 21 were saved, which was owing to the Sashes being left up.

Towards the South of 5 Windows with 281 Panes, there are only 23 left.

Add to this, I have a small Green-house and Stables in a very shattered Condition.

The Villages in this Neighborhood, especially Hanthorpe, Stainfield, Hacconby, Dunsby, and Rippingale, shared a similar Fate, and exhibit, in Appearance, Houses in the Metropolis, after they have been recently rescued from the Ravages of Fire, by dashing out the Windows, and by the seasonable Exertions of the Engines.

The above Damage, however considerable in the Houses, is trivial I fear, in Comparison of the Ravages occasioned by the Tempest in the Field. The Labors of the industrious Husbandman, in open Situations, more especially

cially, are entirely destroyed in some Places, and injured differently in all. The forwarder the Corn, the greater the Loss. Some Fields of Wheat in this Lordship are cut off, and the tender Blade entirely swept away. The Beans are beaten down. The Hedges, in a great Degree, stript of their Foliage, carry the Appearance of arriving Winter. Birds of the domestic Kind, young Geese, Ducks, and Poultry, suffered greatly. I this Morning found a Pidgeon almost stript of it's Feathers, and learn that many have been taken up dead.

About an Hour after the Storm I walked into my Garden, which I found in a State of complete Desolation. Nothing was left by the destructive Blast. I found several Hail-stones of an Inch Diameter.

Another I took up of the following Dimensions:

Length, 1 Inch and an Half. Breadth, 1 Inch. Thickness, Half an Inch.

Since that I have been informed on credible Testimony, that several were found as big as a Pidgeon Egg, measuring 5 Inches in Circumference.

I know

SAMUEL HOPKINSON

Moston near Boston, May, 1800.

I know not by what Means one can estimate, with any tolerable Accuracy, the Quantity of Water generated from the Hail; but, if I may be permitted to hazard a Conjecture, by a Pit facing my House, and filled within an Hour, I conclude that as much descended within that given Period, as ever happens throughout the Space of a long Winter's Night. Brooks soon overflowed their natural Banks, Torrents burst out where none ever ran before, *et superjecto pervertedæ natarunt Æquore Damæ.*

The main Body of the Tempest, as far at least as the Hail extended, certainly did not exceed, in this Parish, 3 Miles and an Half from West to East, and, probably, about 15 Miles in Length, from South to North. In what County it was generated, through what Extent it ran, when at it's Height, and whether it was exhausted before it reached the Shores of our Island, which I expect to be in the Neighbourhood of Grimsby, is to be discovered by no one more likely or more proper than yourself. Allow me, Sir, therefore, to assure you, that if you will have the Goodness to endeavor to ascertain the Particulars of so curious, and at the same Time, of so interesting a Fact, it will be a Circumstance highly gratifying to the Public, and to no single Individual more than your most obedient;

SAMUEL HOPKINSON.

*Morton, near Bourn, May 7, 1800.*

1. Average Size of the Hail-Stones — — —



2. I took up several of the annexed Size — — —



3. These I did not see, but believe some were found full as large — — —



4. Irregular Pieces of Ice, of the following Size and Shape :





The only Remark I have to make is, that it contributed amongst other Causes to that severe Scarcity, under which all Ranks, but, more especially the lower Class, at present, Labor.

Thus ended a Series of bad Weather the most memorable perhaps in the History of this Kingdom, for it continued, some inconsiderable Intervals only excepted, thro'out the enormous Period of 20 Months; and had it happened in an Age and Country less favor'd than our own, the Spirit of whose Inhabitants spreads the Sail of Commerce in every Quarter of the Globe, and introduces the Productions of foreign Climes, instead of Scarcity, it must have occasioned all the complex Horrors of actual Famine.

If, from this cold and wet Season, the Reader will turn his Eye to the Period of Heat and Drought, which set in on June 6, and, continued (during some Days,) with, perhaps, unexampled Violence till the Middle of August—he will have still further Confirmation that the present Scarcity is in some Measure occasioned by the extreme Diversity of the Seasons. The Space, to which I, now, particularly allude, I contend proved full as  
adverse

adverse to Vegetation, as any of the preceding Times. But, as I do not wish to make strong Assertions without some Appearance of Proof, I shall content myself with a few Remarks, which will be obvious to all, who are in Habits of cultivating the Earth in this Part of the County.

The Soil of the Uplands, at least, is, after heavy Spring-Rains, excessively tenacious. If it continues in this State, without being meliorated by mild Showers, gentle Winds, and moderate Heat, till the Commencement of Hot-Weather, no Plant of the esculent Sort, not even the pervading Bean, can perforate the Surface. Wheat, in the Autumnal Months, will lie several Weeks, till let out by the Frost, without Injury; but, at the Close of Spring, especially if the Weather is warm, Beans, Barley, and Oats, unless they quickly vegetate and appear above Ground, will perish. Nor can any Remedy be applied fully adequate to remove the Evil. If the Seed has not been too long in the Ground, it may be let out by the temperate Use of the Harrow; but, however judiciously this is done, a luxuriant Crop seldom succeeds. Lands, thus permitted to remain untouched, continued thro'out the Summer, by a long Succession of early and violent Suns, a plain, hard, steril, Superficies, and are,

now,

now, prepared with great Labor, for a Crop of Wheat. Besides a considerable Tract rendered totally unproductive by intemperate Rains, by a long Succession of early and torrid Suns, the Barley and Oats of Others, especially such as had lately been converted into Tillage, and beside what lies to the East of the Caer-Dyke, were much injured, and, in some Places, nearly consum'd by the Grub, an Insect not uncommon in any, but, unusually prevalent this Year.

The Wheat, considering what a small Part, in Comparison of what had been committed to the Ground, had out-stood the Winter, from the first to about the 20 Aug. made a flattering Appearance. About this Time, a glossy Substance, more particularly visible on the Leaves of Trees and large Vegetables, was observ'd, 2 or 3 Mornings together, which, on Account of it's being glutinous, and sweet, obtains the Name of Honey-Fall. To this, tho' I know not with what Propriety, is generally and positively attributed the Mildew, which at this very Time appeared over every Field, open or enclosed, from the Boundaries of Lincoln Heath to the City of Peterboro'. How far, or in what Degree, it extended beyond these Limits, I had no Opportunity of observing. I  
speak

speak positive to what happen'd over those Tracts, thro' which I pass'd. Certain I am that at this Time such a Substance was visible, when there was neither Sun to exhale it on High, nor Wind to disperse it laterally below. The Straw turn'd black: Circulation ceas'd, and the Ear began to die before it was mature. To this, more than to any other natural Cause, is to be attributed the present Deficiency in this most useful Article of human Subsistence\*.

But this is not all: The lean and scanty Crop received another and not a trifling Injury from the still, close, dead, warm, and misty Weather which prevailed several Days together in the Midst of Harvest. The Corn, cut or uncut, vegetated, more in the enclos'd than in open Situations. So a much smaller Portion remained fit either for Food or Seed.

For the clearer Information of my Readers, I have here enumerated the various Causes, which separately contributed to the Deficiency in the different Sorts of Grain of this present Year.

*Wheat.*

\* This is stiled "mala Rubigo" by Virgil. Our Language affords no Expression sufficiently concise and, at the same Time, expressive of it's baneful and extensive Influence.



*Wheat*

1. Defective Seed.
2. Late and bad Seed Time.
3. A Winter of unusual Length and Severity.
4. Mildew.
5. Growing before it was hous'd.

*Barley.*

1. Indifferent Seed.
2. Unseasonably sown.
3. Land set with immoderate and dashing Rains.
4. Sow'd in some Places twice over, and hurt a second Time by the Hail.
5. Extreme dry Weather from the 6 June to the latter End of Aug.
6. Grub.
7. Growing after it was cut.

*Beans.*

1. Bad Seed, not Half of which germinated.
2. Most of the Remainder entirely destroy'd by the Hail.
3. Check'd in their Growth by the excessive Drought.

*Oats.*

1. The major Part, in Kesteven, being late sown, had little or no Rain from about a Week



Week after they were committed to the Ground, to the End of Aug.

2. The Grub.

*Turnips.*

1. Tho' sown at the usual Time, no Rain falling, not one Acre in 10 vegetated till Sep. and, are, therefore, too late to be of any real Use thro'out the Winter.

*Potatoes.*

1. Sown a full Fortnight too late.
2. Instead of being hoed twice : first as soon as the Plants were 4 Inches above the Surface, to protect them from the Cold : A second Time, when they were high enough to admit the intervening Mould, to suppress the Moisture, and to protect them from the excessive Heat, they were left carelessly exposed either not hoed at the Commencement of the Wet-Weather, or this necessary Operation was totally omitted.

*Domestic and Woodland Fruits.*

No Article fit either for the Animal or Brute Creation was so scarce as this.

1. The Wood of the preceding Year never matur'd. So far from bearing Fruit, Part  
perish'd

perish'd in the Winter, and, that which had remain'd, in exposed Situations, was either kill'd by the Hail Storm, or died at the End of Spring.

2. As the two former Years had been productive, and as a third seldom happens in Succession, it is not extraordinary that the last, under every adverse Circumstance, should utterly fail.

*Hay.*

1. Such Lands as were laid early yielded a plentiful Crop: but, by far, the greater Part, being exposed to the Sun before the Surface was well cover'd, produc'd not two thirds, which was well gotten.

*Articifs Grasses.*

Redundant Crops.

*Average Price of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1800.*

					£.	s.	d.
Wheat	}	per Quarter	-	-	6	10	0
Barley					3	10	0
Beans					4	4	0
Oats					1	12	0
White Pease					8	0	0
Potatoes					1	0	0
Hay, per Hun.	-	-	-	-	0	4	6
Turnips, per Acre	-	-	-	-	5	0	0
Apples, per Strike	-	-	-	-	0	16	0
Acorns	}	none					
Nuts							
Hips							
Hawes							
Beef, per Stone	-	-	-	-	0	6	6
Mutton	}	per Pound	-	-	0	0	6½
Veal					0	0	7
Pork					0	0	7

*Average Produce of Corn and other Articles in  
November, 1800.*

			Q.	B.	P.
Wheat	}	Quarters per Acre	1	0	0
Barley			2	4	0
Beans			0	6	0
Oats			3	4	0
White Pease			2	0	0
Potatoes			55	0	0
Hay, more than Average					
Turnips, defective Crop					
Apples, never so scarce					

As the Summer of 1799 was remarkably cold, so the following of 1800 was excessive hot. As there is not any Subject wherein Mankind, from the King to the Peasant, are more interested than in the Weather, we need not wonder that it forms a constant Topic of Conversation: by it the Sailor regulates his Voyage, and the Husbandman his Operations: by it Plenty is diffus'd, and Famine dispens'd thro' the Land. I have, therefore, subjoined some of the most striking Variations of Farenheit's Thermometer.

In the Summer of 1799 it was generally hovering between 45 and 50. It seldom exceeded 55, was rarely at 60, and only 3 Days at 70 thro'out the whole 6 Months.

What a Difference in 1800 !

So early as the 4 May Farenheit was at 65. Till the 6 June it varied from 45 to 60. From thence to 11 Sep. it waver'd generally between 70 and 84. Between 80 and 84 it continued upwards of 25 Days; but, on Monday Aug. 18, it rose in a Northern Situation to 85, on a Western to 118, and, at Hanthorpe, in the same Parish, in a Southern Position to 122.

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So	At Moreton, near Bourn, in the County of Lincoln, on the 27 Dec. 1798,	Farenheit stood at	2 Degrees be- low 0.
	At the same Place, on the 18 Aug. 1800,	Farenheit was higher by	118 in the same Situation

It appears, then, that within the Space of 20 Months there was a Variation of no less than 120 Degrees in the State of the Atmosphere. If, therefore, the Difference between this and other Periods of equal Duration is consider'd : if the Effect which such remarkable Variations from the Extremes of Heat to Cold cannot fail to have on the tender Fibres of Trees and Plants, is cautiously observ'd : if the mild Aspect of 1798 : the striking Features of 1799 : but, above all, if the steril Periods of 1800, are kept in View, we shall not be at a Loss to account for the Poverty of our Markets, for the Increase of our Poor Rates, or for the Misery, which, now, universally prevails, even in this, commonly abundant Country, thro'out the lower Walks of Life.

If natural Causes have been so instrumental in checking the Productions of the Earth, Others of an artificial Kind have contributed to diminish it's annual Store. Amongst these a War of Eight Years' Duration, must appear the foremost. An Army of 300,000, fighting



or not-fighting Men, consisting not of the bold free-born Sons of Britons alone, but composed of poor Hanoverians, lank Hessians, and friendly Russians, in Turn, paid, cloathed, and fed, from the Shores of our little Island, will surely be allow'd, whatever our Imports, or however fertile our Country may be, to detract somewhat from those common Comforts which a kind Providence intended for the poor Native equally with the Rich. If we consider that each of these, whether in a military or naval Capacity, taking the Average and Quality of Food, consumes, all Losses consider'd, five Times as much as if supported at Home on frugal Industry: that unknown Quantities of Corn, even under the best regulated Governments, are often lost in Depots, and heated unavoidably on Ship-board: that Flour and Provisions of all Kinds are generally injur'd in a greater or less Degree before or after they arrive at distant Colonies and Garrisons in hot Climates: that Œconomy cannot be expected either in cold Camps or in hungry Barracks: if, to this Chain of Consumers, is added the long Link of poor Priests and Emigrants justly entitled to our Pity: if we estimate the convivial Meetings of the Volunteer Infantry and Cavalry, Supplementary Militia,

City

¶ City Train Bands, ~~the~~, we shall have still stronger Reasons for believing that War, on this Account alone, is one of the greatest Evils incident to Mankind.

The various Distresses which have been gradually deriv'd from this impure Source, are render'd still more intollerable by the dissolute Conduct of many in the higher Grades of Life, and by the Festivity of the middle Orders. To specify Particulars would compose a Volume. Every one, in this Day of Dearth, if bless'd with more than what is barely sufficient for his Support, is bound, by the Principles of Humanity, not to distribute only that which he cannot consume, but, should be influenc'd by another Inducement—to deny himself every frivolous Gratification: for we are told, He that giveth unto the Poor, lendeth unto the Lord. Whether an Increase in Population, or a greater Number of Riding Horses, now kept on Account of the improving State of our Roads, contribute to heighten the Evil, the persevering Wisdom of Parliament will, probably, elucidate. Having thus pointed out what are conceiv'd to be the principal Instruments of our Distress, the Attention is next call'd to devise some general Expedient of Relief. Although the executive  
Government

Governor [redacted] and active both in enacting the most salutary Laws, which encourage Importation to an Extent hitherto unknown, and in promoting public Œconomy, the Scarcity is not likely to be lessen'd, and must grievously increase, unless the strictest Prudence is habitually persu'd, Day after Day, by every Individual upon the Surface of Society. So far from presuming to suggest what further regulating Laws the Wisdom and Humanity of the Committee should recommend to Parliament, the Author begs to be understood that he recedes from that Ground, with the most respectful Diffidence; but, as this Report is principally intended for his provincial Countrymen, he ventures to subjoin such Rules of Œconomy as were adopted thro'out the more enlightened Parts of the Kingdom in 1795, but, which, notwithstanding the Intervention of three plentiful Years, being found, by a Co-operation of various natural and artificial Causes, to be inadequate—he therefore takes the Liberty of subjoining some Others.

*Rules of Œconomy in 1795.*

1. Restraint in the Use of Bread to the lowest possible Consumption.
2. One Sort, of moderate Coarseness.
3. Abstinence

3. Abstinence from Potatoes, until all perishable Esculents are consumed.
4. Increas'd Consumption of Fish.
5. Pastry & Puddings diminish'd or laid aside.
6. Not only Barley, but Beans, Pease, Oats, and Rice, were incorporated with Wheat-Flour.
7. Hair Powder less us'd.
8. Subscriptions, among the more opulent Members of the Community, for the establishment of Soup-Houses.

*Further Rules of Economy,*

WHICH THE PECULIAR EXIGENCE OF THE TIMES  
REQUIRES TO BE ADOPTED IN 1800.

1. No Family to eat Bread made of Wheat only.
2. No Water, wherein fresh Meat has been boil'd, to be thrown away; but to be render'd nutritive by the Incorporation of a little Rice and Plenty of Vegetables, such as Leakes, Onions, Turnips, &c.
3. Plain

3. Plain Rice, tied loose and boil'd in plain Water, will be found a most excellent Substitute for a fine-flour Pudding made with Eggs. With the Infusion of a very small Bit of Cassia \* and a few Currants : Sauce made of Wine (or Vinegar) and Sugar, with a little Butter, it is a Dish, in these Days, not unworthy of the Table of an Emperor.
4. In Addition to the nutritious Quality of Milk, in it's simple State, it may be us'd with great Advantage in the making of Bread, and, with Care, may be appli'd an almost inconceivable Variety of Ways to the Comfort of domestic Life.
5. Since Hog-meat constitutes a material Part of human Subsistence, and Potatoes, on Account of the Scarcity of Beans, are now, unavoidably appli'd to feeding this Animal, it is necessary to make a few Remarks on a more frugal and expeditious Mode of preparing this Article for the Table. Potatoes, boil'd and given in fair Proportion with Beans, constitute a most excellent Food for Hogs ; but, as these Articles are, now, become very expensive, other Methods must

\* May, or ought to be, bought in every Market Town at 7s. per lb.  
One oz. is adequate to four Pounds of Rice.



must be adopted. Warmth, Quiet, & Cleanliness, are indispensable : they cannot be carried to Excess. Considering the high Price of every Thing, there is no Substitute better than Barley : which, if well ground, kept sweet, and mix'd with Milk, Broth, or Pot-Liquor, and, for Want of these, with Water, not too hot, given in moderate Quantities, 3 Times a Day, will fatten a Pig of 10 Stone, if put up tolerably fresh, in a Fortnight. This being a gluttonous & slovenly Animal, & the Trough being, for the most Part, low and open : the Food also given in too diffuse a Manner : we generally find, at least, a third Part destroy'd. To avoid so *shocking a Waste*, any Man of a common Understanding may, and ought, both for his own and the public Interest, to contrive, if he does not already know it, a Receptacle out of which there is no Possibility of spoiling the Food.

6. Feeding & milch Cows, if fodder'd 3 Times a Day, under warm, clean, and dry Shelters, in Cribs or Yokes, thrive much faster than in open, cold, and wet Places. Particular Contrivances have, for many Years, been in Use amongst the Northern Counties, and, of late, have been adopted partially in

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this,

this, by confining the Heads of this Sort of Cattle, to prevent the otherwise unavoidable and immoderate Use of Hay.

7. No more Dogs or pleasure Horses than what are barely necessary should be retain'd for the necessary Recreation of the Rich in the noble Diversions of the Field, or for the useful Purposes of rural Life.
8. At a Time when Thousands are suffering, and some absolutely perishing for Want, every considerate and good Man will scorn to consume even a Glass of Wine more than is barely necessary to support him in the Discharge of his Duty. He will apply the generous, but, to him superfluous, Cordial to nobler Purposes. Many a weary Laborer : many a child-bearing Woman : many a sick Person may be often comforted, and, by God's Help, sometimes preserv'd by this his charitable Abstinence, and God-like Œconomy.
9. It is a well-known Property of all Bodies to expand by Heat, and contract thro' Cold. Hence it follows, and domestic Experience confirms it, that hot Meat, especially boil'd, goes much farther than cold.

10. Moser's

10. Moser's Digester is, now, so well known in most Families, that Nothing more need be said either on it's Construction, or, the various Purposes, with the Addition of a Red-Herring to all Soups made of Bones, it answers, both as to Health and Œconomy.
11. As we have no Power of destroying the Breed of Fish, even within the contracted Limits of a Brook, nor, of causing the smallest apparent Diminution in the boundless Treasures of the Sea, it surely would be wise to encourage the Capture of Fish, by permitting the Adventurer to haul the Creeks, to drag the Rivers, to troul the Lakes, to search the Pools, and to tickle, unmolested, every silver Stream of our Island. Such Plans, in the aggregate, cannot fail to alleviate the painful Necessities of the Time. The Evil is at Hand: some Remedy must be applied—the Head and Hand of the Ingenious must be set to work.
12. As the Scarcity of Cattle, also, is indisputable, the Consumption of Veal, Lamb, and young Pigs will be dispens'd with by every temperate and thinking Member of the Community. Tho' this will conduce rather to increase than alleviate the present

Demand, yet, the future and not far distant Benefit to be deriv'd from such Abstinence is evident.

It is a Remark of the most celebrated English Historian that there is a Propensity in Man to forget the past and to magnify the present Calamities of Life, and, under such Impressions, to indulge Despair.

The Author, therefore, to encourage the desponding, has carefully selected from the History of England, such Periods as those wherein, if the Weather was not equally severe, yet, during the Infancy of Commerce and the unimprov'd State of Agriculture, the Inhabitants of this our Island, in those Times, suffer'd much more than the present. He has also mention'd several Others within the Limits of his own Memory, whereby it appears that the most intemperate Winters are sometimes succeeded by the mildest.

1315. The first dreadful Famine, and which seems well-attested by Historians, broke out in the 8th Year of Edward 2d, and raged till the 11th. An incredible Number of People are said to have perish'd in 12 Months. Parliament endeavor'd  
to

to relieve their Wants, but, interfer'd in vain. In the second Year it rose to such Excess that, in our present State of Improvement, it is somewhat difficult to credit what we find upon Record. Wheat was 40s. per Quarter, which is equal to 8l. of our Money. Even the most loathed Animals were eat: but, what is still more horrid, tho' asserted by a Writer whose Veracity is not doubted, Parents were oblig'd to conceal their Children from Thieves, who had no other Means of Subsistence: Prisoners kill'd and devour'd one another: and such Numbers died daily that the Living were scarce able to bury them. The Mortality was not confin'd to the human Race only, for "*Behold the Hand of the Lord was upon the Cattle in the Field, upon the Horses, upon the Oxen, and upon the Sheep. There was a very grievous Murrain.*" The most effectual Remedy was found in the Prohibition of Brewing under Pain of Death.

In the 3d Year of Edward the 3d, on Account of the cold and dismal Rains, the Harvest did not commence till Michaelmas.

1335. The



1335. The Rains were again very dreadful, damaging or destroying the Fruits of the Earth.
1348. It rain'd from June to Dec. without an Interval of 48 Hours. The Earth became almost barren. A Pestilence rag'd, and the very Sea did not yield Plenty of Fish. This was succeeded by a Dearth amongst Cattle.
1355. An uncommon Drought occasion'd a Scarcity of Corn in France and England. This is called "*The dear Summer.*"
1362. Plague in London very dreadful.
1379. In London and other Places.
1407. Died of the Plague 30,000.

In the 16th Year of Henry 6th, Corn was so scarce that the People were compell'd to eat Bread made of Fern Root and Wild Fruits.

1477. More died of the Plague, than by the Sword of 15 Years' previous War.
1499. Very horrid in London.
1548. Sweating

1548. Sweating Sickness destroy'd great Numbers in London, and is said to have prevail'd *only amongst the English Troops* when encamp'd with the Allies in Flanders.

1594. It cut off a fourth Part of the Inhabitants in London.

1604. James I is said to have been so afraid of the Plague, that he could not forbear cursing the People who press'd forward to welcome his Coronation.

The following curious Memorandum is taken from the parochial Register of Etton, in the County of Northampton, by the Author :

1614. About the 26th of Feb. it began and continued snowing until the 6th Day at Night of March, and the Summer before was great Stow of Rain and Flood.

HUGH MAPLISDEN, Curate.

We come, now, to the last, and, seemingly, because, perhaps, it is the best attested, to the most dreadful Period of all, the Plague which cut off, without Distinction of Age or Sex, 68,000 Souls within the Walls of London,

Anno

Anno Domino 1665, besides proportionate Numbers in many other large Places, particularly in the City of Peterborough, and at Ramsey, in the County of Huntingdon. It is scarce possible for those who are acquainted with modern London, to conceive the gloomy Scene, which, then, prevail'd thro'out the City. The more opulent, and such as were not confin'd by Business, fled for Safety into the Country. Of those who remain'd alive few ventur'd into the Streets. Shops were shut. Trade was at a Stand. This gloomy Picture was render'd still more shocking by the dead Carts which patrol'd the Streets, at stated Hours, attended by 2 Men smoaking Tobacco, crying out in dismal Tones, "*Throw out your dead.*" "*Throw out your dead.*" These were convey'd to a common Grave kept open in an adjacent Field, now, call'd Charter-House-Square.— Here we are told, on the Authority of the celebrated Dr. Darwin, it was no uncommon Thing for Mothers with Infants at their Breasts to throw themselves in Despair and expire amidst the putrid Bodies of Friends and Relatives.

Vide {	RAPIN's HISTORY
	POINTER
	AND
	NATHAN BEN-SADDE's CHRONICLES
	PENNANT's SURVEY OF LONDON
	About

About the Beginning of 1763 or 1764, the Author recollects perfectly well hearing it said, that it snowed 14 Days together.

1784. August so uncommonly cold, wet, and gloomy, that Fires and additional Cloathing became necessary. Harvest had not been so backward since 1754. Wheat was not cut about Peterboro' till 6 Sept. The Season, however, was generally healthy. Dec. very wet and tempestuous till 7. Frost and Snow succeeded for a Month, the severest ever remembered at so early a Period.

From 18 Oct. to 12 March, 1785, there were only 26 Days in which the Thermometer had not been depressed from 1 to 18 Degrees and  $\frac{1}{2}$  below the Freezing Point, which is a more constant Succession of Cold-Weather than has been known, within the Memory of Man, in this Climate. In 1783 there were 89 Days Frost: in 1779 and 1763, 94: and in the memorable Winter of 1739, only 105, which is 12 less than this Winter. Besides all this, the Month of March 1785 was, perhaps, the most extraordinary ever remembered; for on the 5th, at 10 P. M. the Thermometer was down at 20 below Freezing. At Islip, in Northamptonshire, this Period was succeeded

F

by

by a wonderful Drought, which, strictly speaking, commenc'd in Feb. continued, with little Intermission, till Sep. and was attended with excessive Heat. Few Fields of Hay, in Northamptonshire, were cut, because they were not worth cutting.

1786. A long sharp Winter, tho' in a less Degree than the preceeding.

1787. November like Summer. Five Weeks Frost.

1788. Little Frost till after Xmas.

1789. Wet, open, and mild nearly thro'out.

1790. Such a Winter had not been upon Record. The Wind was not above 2 Days in the North and East, from Sep. to March.

1791. No Frost, either in Spring or Winter, but, on the 12th June, Whitsunday, Snow fell in various Parts, and in a few Days after the Thermometer was at 75.

1792. Spring and Summer very wet and very cold. Hay and Corn bad. Wet Winter, but neither Frost nor Snow. Sheep rotten.

1793. Month's



1793. Month's Frost. Vast Fall of Snow on Easter Monday, which was succeeded by a fine Summer, and crown'd with a plentiful Increase.

1794. Wonderful fine Spring. Asparagus April 13. Grass on warm southern Banks Knee-high. The like had not happened since 1778.

Frost set in very severe about the Beginning of Dec. and continu'd till April.

1795. Spring and Summer cold, wet, dark, and ungenial. In July Wheat was 7l. per Quarter. The Winter was directly the Reverse, for there was no Snow and scarce a frosty Morning till

1796. Feb. we had, then, a few sharp healthy Winds, a fine Summer, in the common Way, and an abundant Autumn. No Rain, no Wind, no Snow, and only sharp, dry, black Frosts in the Winter of 1796 and Spring 1797.

In April it began to Rain, and continued, with few short Intervals, till April, 1798.

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Should

Should the Result of the above Observations prove, in the smallest Degree, beneficial to his poor, honest, and industrious Countrymen, the Intentions of it's Author are amply rewarded : should they not, he will rest happy in reflecting that his Labors were well intended.

*E N D.*

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ERRATA.

- Page 7, l. 4. for "Alpes" read *Alps*;—l. 6, "Lattitude" r. *Latitude*.  
 — 9, l. 24, "Vevetation" r. *Vegetation*.  
 — 17, (Latin Quot.) "erebris" r. *crebris*, and for "Necem" r. *Mortem*.  
 — 21, l. 21, "Calabre" r. *Calibre*.  
 — 24, l. 11, "pervedæ" r. *pavidæ*.  
 — 27, l. 18, "vegitate" r. *vegetate*.  
 — 32, "Articifs Grasses" r. *Artificial Grasses*.  
 — 48, (In Reference to Historians) r. *Nathan Ben Saddi's Chronicles*.

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